

MARVEL
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BENDIS
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THE NEW AVENGERS



THE NEW AVENGERS

THE TRUST
PART ONE
PREVIOUSLY...



The Civil War has ended and the Avengers are no more. Luke Cage, Spider-Man, Wolverine and Spider-Woman have gone underground rather than register their identities with the government. Together with Clint Barton--now wearing the costume of Ronin--Doctor Strange and Iron Fist, they have traveled to Japan to rescue Maya Lopez, the deaf woman also known as Echo, from the band of assassins known as the Hand.

When Elektra, the Hand's leader, is killed in battle, her body reverts to its true form: that of a Skrull, a shape-shifting alien.

Meanwhile, in New York City, Iron Man and the Mighty Avengers are fighting a newly-powered Ultron, who has taken control of the world's weather patterns and set off an EMP attack which has cut off all types of power.

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RAND CORPORATE JET,
EN ROUTE TO THE
UNITED STATES.■



RRRUUMMMMMBBBULEEEEE



SO
NO ONE IS
GOING TO
TALK?



OKAY, I'LL TALK.
ELEKTRA'S A **SKRULL**.
A SHAPE-SHIFTING ALIEN SKRULL WAS LEADING THE HAND.



THE LARGEST GROUP OF ASSASSINS IN THE WORLD HAD TAKEN OVER THE JAPANESE UNDERWORLD AND THEY WERE BEING LED BY A **SKRULL**.

SO *WHY* WOULD AN ALIEN TRAVEL MILLIONS OF LIGHT YEARS, ACROSS GALAXIES AND THE MILKY WAY AND THROUGH WHAT I **ASSUME** IS HELLISH TRAFFIC THE ENTIRE TIME TO *DO* THIS?

JUST SO SHE COULD GET FREE YABISOBA NOODLES WHENEVER SHE WANTS?



SERIOUSLY, NO ONE FEELS LIKE *TALKING* ABOUT THIS?



WOW.

NO ONE IS TALKING BECAUSE NO ONE **TRUSTS** EACH OTHER ANYMORE.

BECAUSE ELEKTRA IS A SKRULL?



BECAUSE ANY ONE OF *US* COULD BE A SKRULL.





WELL, WE HAVE CLINT BARTON--HAWKEYE--BACK FROM THE DEAD AND ALL DOLLED UP AS THE NINJA OF THE 21ST CENTURY...

WHERE YOU BEEN THE LAST FEW MONTHS? DON'T FEEL LIKE SHARING?



DEAD, ALIVE, DEAD, ALIVE. AND HERE YOU ARE, NO BOW AND ARROW...AND WITH *US* INSTEAD OF YOUR OLD AVENGERS FRIENDS...

WELL, THAT'S NOT SUSPICIOUS AT ALL.

AND JESSICA DREW, THE WOMAN OF A THOUSAND ALLEGIANCES.



WHO'D YOUR DADDY WORK FOR? WHERE WERE YOU BEFORE THE NEW AVENGERS GOT TOGETHER? S.H.I.E.L.D.? HYDRA?

HEY, WHERE'S NICK FURY, JESS?



ECHO, KINGPIN'S ASSASSIN, IS NOW, ALL OF A SUDDEN, THE SCOURGE OF THE UNDERWORLD.

THE ONLY TWO PEOPLE THAT VOUCHED FOR YOU WERE CAPTAIN AMERICA, BUT HE'S DEAD...

...AND MATT MURDOCK, AND HE'S... WHEREVER HE IS.



AND WHY IS CAPTAIN AMERICA DEAD?

BECAUSE ALL THE SUPER HEROES IN THE WORLD HAVE SPENT THE SUMMER BEATING THE CRAP OUT OF EACH OTHER.



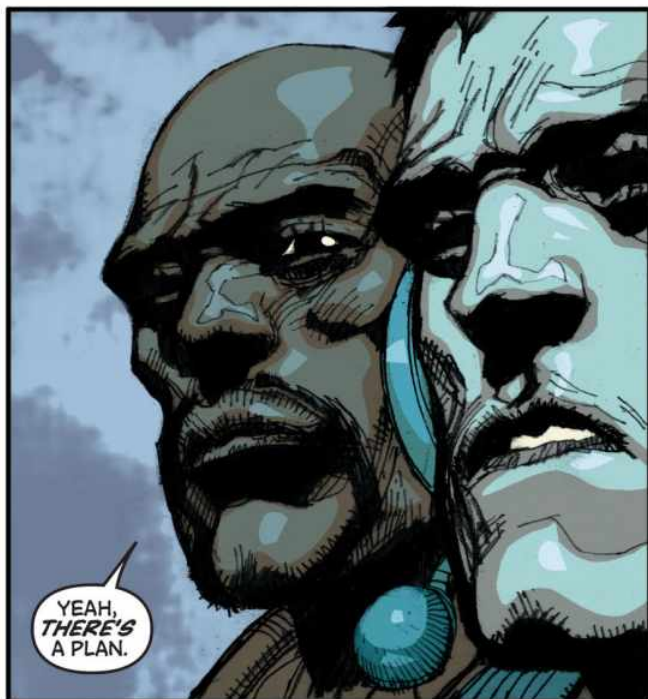
AND LET ME ASK YOU, PETER PARKER--

--THE MAN WHO SPENT EVERY SINGLE SECOND OF HIS ADULT LIFE TRYING TO PROTECT HIS IDENTITY AS SPIDER-MAN FROM THE WORLD--

--WHO JUST WENT AND TOLD THE WORLD HE WAS SPIDER-MAN AND ESCALATED THE WAR--

--HEY, PETE.







MAN! ARE YOU PURPOSEFULLY HITTING *EVERY* CLOUD FROM JAPAN TO NEW YORK?

R RRUUUUUU M M M M M BBBBB L EEEEE



WHAT?



GET IT?

THEY KNOW
WE *HAVE* HER
AND THEY KNOW
WE KNOW. SO WE
GIVE HER UP
AND *SEE* WHAT
THEY DO.





THEY WANT OUR PLANET. THEY HAVE NO PLANET AND THEY NEED OURS.

I'VE NEVER SEEN AN ALIEN BEFORE.

AND YOU'VE NEVER BEEN DEAD BEFORE. YOU'RE HAVING A REAL RENAISSANCE THIS WEEK.

BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE SKRULLS WANT US EXTERMINATED, AS A POINT OF CULTURAL PRIDE.



THEY *TRIED* TO WHACK US BEFORE AND THEY *FAILED*.

THEY ARE A PROUD, WARRIOR RACE ON A LEVEL THAT WE, *EVEN* US, CAN'T WRAP OUR HEADS AROUND...

...AND THEY HAVE LOST THIS PLANET TO US, TO THE KREE, TO THE INHUMANS...

THEY HAVE FOUGHT HARD TO GET THEIR LITTLE MITTS ON THIS PLANET AND THEY HAVE *ALWAYS* LOST.

AND MAYBE-- I DON'T KNOW-- MAYBE THIS IS A REAL PLAN THEY GOT HERE.

AND IF LUKE'S THINKING ON ALL OF THIS IS RIGHT--

--THAT THE SECRET WAR, THE CIVIL WAR, WANDA MAXIMOFF, THE RAFT, ALL OF THIS IS BECAUSE OF *THEM*...

...IF THAT'S *TRUE*, EVEN A LITTLE, EVEN HALF OF IT...

...THEY MAY HAVE *ALREADY* WON.



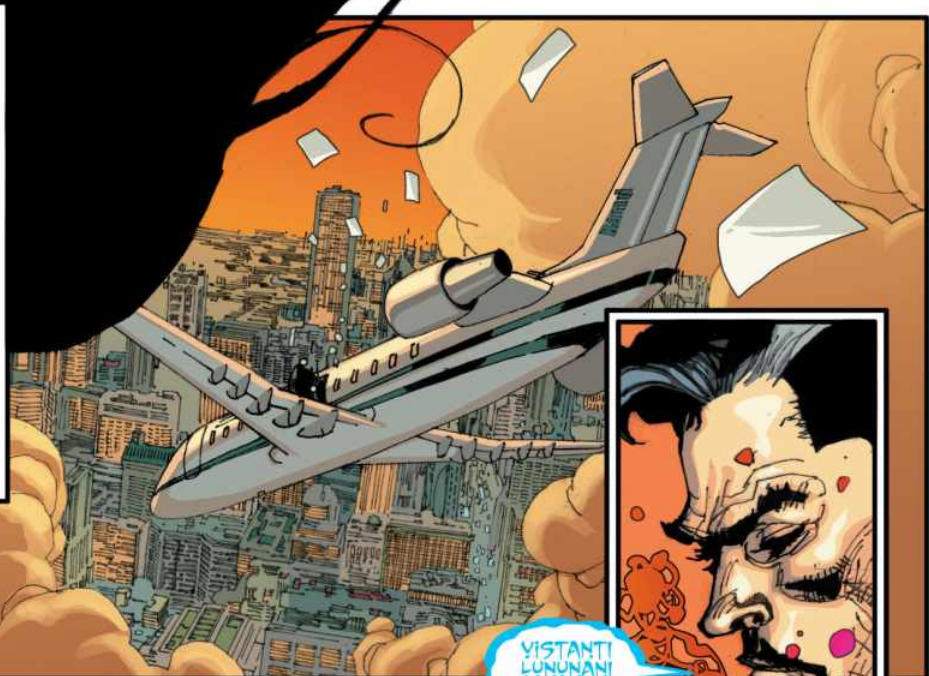
HUH.



WELL... I'M FREAKING OUT.







VISTANTI
LUNUNANI
STEENANI...



I-I-I
NEED A GOLF
COURSE OR-OR
A PARK OR
SOMETHING.



BACK OF
THE PLANE,
LOGAN!

WAIT!

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

